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For Immediate Release:

BYRD RECEIVES AWARDS AT EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

CHARLESTON -- Jason Byrd, son of Wesley and the late Kaye Byrd, recently was presented with several awards during the Eastern Illinois University's School of Business Awards Ceremony.

Byrd was the recipient of four scholarships -- the Mr. and Mrs. William C. Simmons Memorial Award, the Timothy Gover/Clifford Fagan scholarship, the Jim and June Giffin Scholarship and the Charles Gifford Manion Memorial Scholarship -- as well as the Theta Omega Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi Outstanding Junior Award.

The scholarships are administered through the Eastern Foundation and presented annually to a business major based on their academic excellence, outstanding personal character and extracurricular activities.

Beta Alpha Psi, a national honorary accounting fraternity, presents the Outstanding Junior award to the member who has made significant contributions to his/her chapter through leadership, demonstration of responsibility, and active participation during his or her junior year.

Byrd is a 1996 graduate of Tri-City High School in Buffalo and a junior accounting major.

The Foundation, with an endowment exceeding \$18.5 million, was established in 1953 and annually distributes more than 250 scholarships and awards to EIU students and faculty. All scholarships and awards are privately funded and held in trust by the Foundation.